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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #04264-86
12 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Frederick L. Wettersing
National Intelligence Officer for Africa

SUBJECT: Background on Zaire for Your 15 September
Meeting with Ambassador Brandon Grove

1. Attached is a brief analysis of Zairian President Mobutu's problems and policies prepared by DI/ALA/AF for your 15 September meeting with Ambassador Brandon Grove.

2. Ambassador Grove will likely discuss Mobutu's continuing pique with the US Government, largely a result of Mobutu's feelings that US aid is not commensurate with the support he has given to US policies, and the extent to which Mobutu will demonstrate his annoyance with us. He has already threatened to expel the Peace Corps, begun a halfhearted overture to the Soviets, restricted official contacts with Embassy personnel, and may undertake other measures. He has had these periods of annoyance before (1975 and 1982) and is capable of expressing his feelings by PNGing the US ambassador or other US officials.

3. The \$64 question is whether Mobutu will make fundamental alterations in his policies or cease cooperation [redacted]

[redacted] Past behavior suggests that he will not, although he is capable of threatening to do so. [redacted]

[redacted] Mobutu has only limited room to maneuver and will remain in a large degree dependent on US, French, and Belgian assistance.

4. President Mobutu is tentatively scheduled to come to Washington in November and meet with the President (timing dependent on the US-USSR Summit).

Fred Wettersing
Frederick L. Wettersing

Attachment:
As stated [redacted]

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